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A  
L E T T E R  
T O

Dr. SHARPIN,

in ANSWER to his  
*APPEAL to the PUBLIC, &c.*  
concerning his MEDICAL TREATMENT  
O F

MR. JOHN RALLING,  
APOTHECARY, of  
BURY ST EDMUND's in *Suffolk.*

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*Et pro judicio dum stant erroris sui,  
Ad pœnitendum rebus manifestis agi.*

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By DR. WM. NORFORD. *12*

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A  
L E T T E R  
T O  
D R. S H A R P I N

in answer to his  
APPEAL to the PUBLIC &c  
concerning his MEDICAL TREATMENT



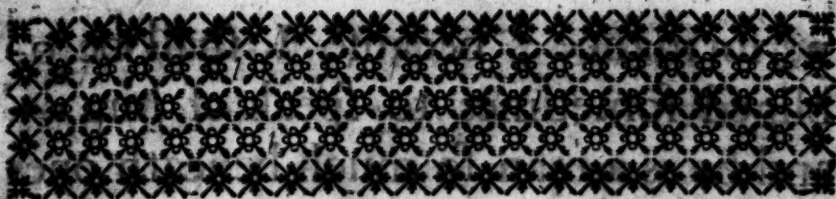
M R. J O H N S O N  
AT O F F I C E  
B U R Y S T R E E T I N S U F F O L K

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notice, that I had, at one time, give

**SIR,**

on over all thoughts of answering your

pamphlet, because he was concerned

**OUR** "Appeal to the pub-

lic in General," &c. had

**Y** been publish'd some Days,

before I had the pain and

pleasure to read it — pain, that you

could be so unkind to attack me at

all — and pleasure to find you could

attack me so weakly --- tho' joined

by a person, who has as much ran-

cor and envy in his heart towards

me, as you can wish. I am sorry

that you were forc'd to have a person

of his stamp to assist you in your

performance ;

A 2

performance ; because I shall be obliged sometimes to speak of him — and he is a man so much beneath ones notice, that, I had, at one time, given over all thoughts of answering your pamphlet, because he was concerned with you in writing it. But when I maturely consider'd that my silence would be shewing you great disrespect, as a regular physician, and consequently one who has had an academical education, I determined to answer it — and, (to shew the public I scorn to take any unfair advantage of you,) to answer it by myself singly, without the assistance of any one. And another reason why I wish'd you had wrote your pamphlet alone, is, that then I should have had only *truth* to have dealt with — and, in whatever

dress



dress she might have appeared from your hands, it would have been still *truth*, and I might have acquitted myself with more ease and pleasure. Little did I think when I first came to Bury, and you did me the honor to desire my acquaintance, I should so soon have had an altercation of this kind with you. I am conscious to myself I do not deserve your enmity; and tho' I now find I never had a place in your friendship, it could not have hurt you to have continued my acquaintance; as I never interrupted your studies, by unseasonable visits; never stated any cases to you; or in private asked your advice to set me thro' any difficulties I met with in the practice of physic — so that, upon

the whole, you could not have been a loser by it. But why will you carry your enmity towards me so far to trouble the public with a circumstance about me they knew before? Does not almost every body, in this neighbourhood know that I lived at Halesworth? And in what capacity I practised there? Did I ever endeavour to conceal it\*? Your assistant indeed would not let you tell the whole truth, viz. that I also practised as a Physician at Halesworth — and had the honor to be strongly recommended when I came hither, by some of the best families in

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\* In the year 1752 I publish'd an Essay on Cancerous Tumors, with my name prefix'd as a Surgeon. Several of these Books I gave to different persons, in this Town, when I first came hither.



in that part of Suffolk. You might with as much propriety have spoke of your self; told every body you are a regular phyfician, was educated at Cambridge, practifed fince, for many years, at Eaft-Deafham in Norfolk, with as good fuccefs, according to the recommendation of you, as you have done here. You fee Sir, I am no more afraid to fpeak of your advantages, your abilities, your excellencies; than I am to declare my own difadvantages, and the pains I have gone thro' to acquire that knowledge which is fo difagreeable to you.

When I was propofed to be joined in confultation with you, in the Cafe of Mr RALLING, you complained highly of the indignity offered to you as an *academical Gentleman*; and

how

how hard it was to be joined with one, who was not regularly educated ; and that it had cost you so much more for your education than it had done me. How much this reason ought to weigh against me, I shall not presume to say — but as to the indignity offer'd to you to consult with me, it could be none — because you must know by what high authority I practise as a physician : no less than that of the COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS in LONDON. A College establish'd as well by Royal-charter as confirmed by act of parliament, and although any person, shall have taken the highest degree any of our Colleges can confer ; yet, he is precluded from practising within seven miles of that Metropolis, till he has condescended

to



to undergo an examination before that body; who are always men of the first character, and the most establish'd reputation in *PHYSIC* — and are so jealous of their honor, that they never grant their *Diploma*, till the petitioner has undergone a personal examination, before the *PRESIDENT* and the *HEADS* of the College, as well in *Anatomy*, as in every other branch of the science of *physic* — and, I am perswaded, no person, who had undergone such an examination, was ever before thought unworthy to be admitted into a consultation. But there must be some other reason for your conduct towards me now, than that alleged above; as you joined in consultation with me, when I first had the pleasure of knowing you, in more places than one.

We

We were both called to Mr HAWES'S Daughter, in the same day ; and, if I remember right, in the same hour. You behaved like a Gentleman, with great candor, and good nature to me during the whole illness — and, I hope, I did the same to you. Is it in the power then of one ill-disposed man to pervert that good nature, and sense, which have made you so respectable among all your friends and acquaintance? This certainly must be the case ; otherwise that ancient adage, *grex totus in agris unius scabie cadit & porrigine porci*, could not have stood the test of so many ages.

The royal College of Physicians in LONDON, was founded, as I have observed to you, to be a check upon the ignorant — and that none should prac-

tise



tise as a physician, who was not properly qualified. I own I wish I had been of Cambridge, or of Oxford; as I highly reverence those seminaries of learning; and as it would have prevented your cavilling against me at this juncture—but it would be extremely hard, that because a man has been so unfortunate as not to have been educated at one of our Mother UNIVERSITIES, he should be excluded being useful to the community, tho' he had suck'd in a sufficient degree of knowledge in the science he professed, with so much greater pain and disadvantages else where. You see Sir, by what I have said, I mean not to cast any reflection on either of our Univer-

B

fities,

sities, when I talk of any academical education. I highly reverence those seats of learning, as I have before observed — but you know it would be equally absurd to suppose every one who has resided and studied at a College should be wise and learned, as it would be to charge the College with every Student's faults and want of knowledge in the science he professed after he left it.

Neither Cambridge nor Oxford, you are sensible, can give a man a *genius*, if he has none before ; but they are excellent places to polish and instruct a man of parts, and to enable him to shew his mental powers to the best advantage. You see Sir, upon what hinge my meaning

ing

ing turns — that I have not the vanity to put my self upon an equality with you — I will allow you all the advantages of your superior education, if you will allow me what little merit I have in the skill of physic.

I am sensible there will always be a great difference between you and me — we differ perhaps in our very nature, which education may a little help, but cannot totally change; as Horace has long ago observed, *naturam expellas furca, tamen usque recurret*. You were born Sir, no doubt, and educated only to prescribe, and give directions by a dash of the quill — nature never intended a man of your abilities, should condescend to do what I



have done. You have told me your self, when I had the honor of being familiar with you, that you could not stoop so low as to hold your *nose* over a *still*; whilst I own my self to be of so groveling a disposition, as to have spent whole days and nights in proving the truth of those things, by experiment, which you only have read in books and consider'd in theory. You see Sir, how ready I am to say every thing I can which is due to your merit — indeed Sir, whenever I speak of *you*, I shall speak with the greatest respect; but you must excuse me whenever I speak of your *Appeal*, if I do nothing but trifle.

It appears to me a *Monster*: a

*Foetus*

*Fœtus* with two heads, and the eyes closed — brought forth long before its time — and one of the heads manifestly injured by the hands of the *Man-Midwife* ushering it, too precipitately, into the world. It is too *weak* and *thin* to be wrapped in a *lambs skin* ; and can't therefore, in the nature of things, long survive its birth—and indeed I hope it will not, as I have a great aversion to monsters of that kind ; and, I dare say, its parents will not long be sorry, if the *Goddeſs Cloacina* out of her wonted goodness should think fit to take the *infant* to her arms, as ſhe has often kindly received creatures of a like male-formation. If I should have

ſagacity

sagacity enough to discover which part of it is yours, I shall be glad to preserve it for the good of mankind — but, I am afraid when I come to take off the superfluous members, and endeavor to open its eyes, the whole will die; tho' as the creature has two hearts, I may perhaps find out the sound side, and prolong its life a few days.

But to be serious, if there is any merit in the pamphlet, you Sir, ought to have the credit of it; and I am not insensible how much I owe to your wisdom and kindness that I am not spoke of in that performance, in terms which would have been much below the dignity of a *graduate* to have put his name.

And



And that I believe was not your only motive: you do not think I deserve the appellations of *rogue*, *scoundrel*; and that if there was any mortification upon Mr RALLING, I brought it on — neither do you believe me so wicked as to have endeavour'd to kill Mr RALLING for five days, (tho' I was not able to effect it,) while you and your worthy assistant attended him. And tho' he dared not, as joined with you, to print these things, yet he has dared in a more private way to speak more than this to some persons of credit — and I have it from under the hands of one of them, to whom he spoke it — so that, tho' you have got much reputation, no

doubt

doubt, in the eyes of some, by what you have publish'd — yet you will certainly get much more by what you have let alone, when the public is acquainted with the whole case.

It is time now I should come more particularly to your Appeal, and make some observations upon it, page by page — in doing which, I make no doubt, it will plainly appear both to *you* and every sensible man in the *Faculty*, how egregiously you have been imposed upon, by relying so much on your worthy friend. I never indeed took him for a conjurer, or I should have thought he had had the power  
of

of fascination ; to make you see with what eyes he pleased, and think with what degree of understanding he liked best — and to make you believe every idle report he thought proper to croud upon you. I know you are a man of abilities, and therefore it the more surprises me. If you will believe me Sir, I never reported any thing of your *injudicious manner* of treating Mr RALLING, with an *intent* to injure your reputation, or that of your friend. I never open'd my lips to any body how he was treated, nor ever said if I *had not stepped in to his assistance, he must inevitably in a few hours have lost his life,* — I kept silence for some days, 'till I

C

was



was obliged to speak to defend my own reputation. Mr STEWARD asked me those very questions himself—I answer'd in the negative ; and told him he must not give credit to every idle report he might hear about this matter : and I think it was two or three days after this before I mention'd the case : indeed I had not heard at that time of the honorable titles he had given me—or, 'tis probable, I had not kept silence so long. Besides Mr RALLING would not have died in a *few hours*, if I had not stepped in to his assistance, but he might in a *few days*, as you your self will believe, when I tell you his distemper. When you first ceased attending Mr RALLING, you  
had

had it from under my own hand,  
 that I had no ill will towards you —  
 tho' you had treated me with so  
 much contempt. You had promised  
 me your friendship, after our meet-  
 ing at Mr GARNHAM's, and hand-  
 somely excused your self for your  
*strange behaviour* to me there —  
 I really believed you were in earnest;  
 and reminded you of it, and that I  
 was not disposed to break with you.  
 But in this you behaved so contrary  
 to that goodness and honesty of  
 heart, I thought you indued with,  
 that you exposed my letter with an  
*intent* to injure my reputation; a  
 letter of friendship, (wrote indeed  
 in a hurry, and there may be some  
 inaccuracies in it, yet I hope no very

great ones,) a letter design'd for no creatures perusal but your own. If you found on reading it, you could write much better than I, it would been more to your credit to let it have rested there, or to have answer'd it friendly : — and shewed me my error. — I would with pleasure have recieved instruction from you : But you did not think proper to answer it, so that my friends, (and our friends will be partial,) think that you would not write to me in latin, for the very reason, your friends would suggest I ought not to have wrote to you in that language. But to proceed — I was disposed at one time to have transcribed a part of your pamphlet



pamphlet, and then to have added what happen'd after Mr RALLING ceas'd to be your patient. But I hope to make the case useful without that trouble; which would cost me more time than I have at present to spare — and, I thought, you would with more pleasure read your own observations in your own book, than in mine. I shall therefore only in general terms take notice of such parts as are necessary I should take notice of, and candidly relate the true case.

In the first place, as you have told us *Mr Ralling is of a gross habit of body* — about 42 years of age; but, according to his account, seldom afflicted with the piles, and ne-

ver

ver to any great degree ; subject sometimes to slight fits of the Gout, —but the irregular fever, you mention, he had two years ago, was caught by contagion, by attending some soldiers, who were ill with such a malignant fever, that Mr RALLING says, it was little inferior to the plague. He is very regular in his diet, —and seldom errs either in eating or drinking. About a month before he was your patient, he was extremely costive ; and for a week before he was confined, felt such pain, — and bearing down in the *intestinum rectum*, that as he expressed it, he sometimes thought his very bowels would drop from him. On the 9th of July last,

he

he grew so bad, that he thought proper by the advice of your friend, to lose blood — they both indeed judged the disorder was the internal piles; and Mr RALLING the day after his bleeding took some *Magnesia alba*, and afterwards *Æthiops mineralis* &c. as you have related. I should observe to you, that Mr RALLING told me, when he laid down, the part was easy, but as soon as he got up, the bearing down was intolerable. In this state he continued till Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of July when you saw him—and you have inform'd us what you prescribed for him. You certainly thought, as you have observed, *his complaints, of small consequence*, because you declared them

so



so trifling, as not worthy the cognizance of a physician. On monday the 16th. you have given us a true account of him, and what you prescribed for him : but you omitted telling us, you declared by his *pulse*, and *urine*, his disorder wou'd soon terminate.

On Tuesday the 17th. you have faithfully related his symptoms, and given us your opinion what might happen in the fever viz. *there might be an intermission, or, at least a remission* ; neither of which things came to pass ; and your worthy friend thought him not in a proper state to take the Bark. I visited him that day, for the first time, as a *friend* not as a *physician*. I saw  
his

his *urine* and felt his *pulse*, but could see no reason to induce me to think it would fall out as you had prognosticated; and this was likewise your patient's opinion of his own case. He told me he wonder'd at what you said — ask'd me if I did not think him in great danger — I said I hoped he wou'd do very well, and that was all the answer I made him.

Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup>. your account of him is just. I saw him in the Evening — and was told you had propos'd the use of the *Catbeter* as the only relief for his suppression of *urine*. This day indeed he desired to see me, after I had sent a Servant to know how he did — but I order'd nothing for him — nor do

I remember I was asked to direct any thing.

On Thursday morning the 19<sup>th</sup>. I was call'd out of bed to him : his urine had been totally suppressed for some hours. He ask'd me what method was best to relieve him—spoke very respectfully of *you*, and your *assistant* — but hinted that he could not help thinking there was something in his complaint you had both overlook'd. I desired he would send for Mr STEWARD — which indeed he refused to do then for fear of the *Catheter* — but begg'd I wou'd inspect the diseased parts, and give him my opinion of them. I did so—and found them nearly as you have described ; only the *Perinæum* was more swelled than you mention



mention — and laid out like the crown of a man's hat. He was in great pain--and his pulse so weak and low, that he appeared almost dying.

You will please to observe Sir, both passages were stopp'd — he could not go to *stool* — he could make no *urine*. Mr RALLING had mentioned a *glyster* to Mr STEWARD, to which he made no objection, but that it was impossible to be given on account of the swelling. I believe it would have been impossible to have passed the *Catheter* then on account of the swelling—and it would have been very dangerous, if not fatal, to have attempted it. What was to be done? no time was to be lost, in a case thus circumstanced. I then particularly examined the state

of the *anus*, within and without ; when to my surprise Doctor SHARPIN, I found not the least symptom of *piles*—no not the *blind piles* ; or, to use hard words, *hæmorrhoides cæcæ*. You will say perhaps what did you find good Sir ? I found good Doctor SHARPIN, a disorder the very idea of which is so nasty, and the name too gross to be wrote in plain English, unless I was writing to a *Farrier*. I must then in humble imitation of your self, call it *Stercora cæca* ; or, perhaps I should speak in the singular number — I really am at a loss how to express myself to a DOCTOR of your nice judgment — and in your very disposition too nice certainly to inspect, much more to touch a busi-

ness

ness of such a nature; fit only for the sight and hands of one whose education has been low and vulgar enough to teach him not to mind  
 \*\*\*\*\* his fingers, when the life of his patient could not be saved by any other means. I will then if you please, call it *stercus cæcum magnum* for it was in one vast lump, that more than equall'd the size of a large pint bottle. To be serious Sir, (since the poor patient is alive; is open now at both ends, and can speak to the truth of my assertions) I do assure you the *intestinum rectum* was greatly overloaded with hard excrement, some of which, I make no doubt, had been lodged there some weeks. Think then Sir, in what a situation was your poor  
 patient



patient, with that great inflammation on the outside of the *rectum*, and so vastly distended with *faeces* within. Could any thing be more proper in this circumstance than immediately to unload the gut? I am sure you will answer in the affirmative — and say that nothing else could save the bowel, and perhaps the neck of the bladder from a fatal *gangrene*, — I ran home immediately for an instrument for this purpose, it being impossible to administer a glyster with the common apparatus — after boring thro' the hard excrement, I forc'd up an injection, composed of ingredients not only proper to loosen the *faeces*, but for a fermentation to the bowel.

This indeed almost instantly  
gave

gave him relief ; and made him feel, as he exprefs'd it, as if he had been in *heaven* : he made urine presently after, and *with more ease* as you have observ'd in this day's account. In this instance perhaps you will see Sir, how necessary it is for a Physician to have a good practical knowledge in Surgery — He should be acquainted with the lowest and meanest offices of it, to do his duty as he ought in all cases that may come under his care. A physician is not always so happy to have a *skilful Surgeon* with him -- so that often times his patients may lose their lives, if he is capable of directing what is to be done only in a general way --- He ought to be able to point out, in the most particular manner

manner, what should be done, and what should be avoided, in such, or such an operation, with that great skill and caution often necessary to save life. In the case before us, would not a prudent Physician have ask'd the Surgeon, whether he had examined the condition of the *rectum*, whether it was loaded with *faeces* or not? and as the circumstances attending our patient, made it almost impossible, or at least highly improbable, but that the gut must partake of that vast inflammation surrounding it; should he not particularly have caution'd the Surgeon to keep the *rectum* free of hard excrements; which by the very pressure on the inflamed vessels of the gut, must almost inevitably bring on a Mortification?



I this day desired he would propose to you his taking the *Bark*, as if it came from himself—but charged him particularly not to take a grain of it, without your approbation. During all this time he followed your directions, in every the minutest particular — as indeed he did faithfully all the time you was so kind to attend him. And I would have you please to observe, once for all, that exclusive of the Glysters, he took nothing by my direction, all the time you look'd after him.

You did not choose then to give him the *Bark*, for reasons best known to your self. But you order'd him the *Decoctum Sacrum* — and if there was any omission in

E

his

his not beginning it so soon as you expected, it was because you did not sufficiently inforce the use of it, when you was by his bed-side : after you went down stairs, you sent a paper up to him to know whether he approved of taking it—and, at that time, Mr RALLING declares to me he was incapable of judging what was proper for him : as soon as he knew your pleasure he immediately obey'd it. There were now manifest signs of a Mortification coming on — I desired he would mention to you and Mr STEWARD the Cataplasm of oatmeal and old-beer—he did, and it was afterwards applied by your direction, but not so soon as it ought to have been—

as soon as you and Mr STEWARD agreed to it, it was applied.

On Friday morning the 20<sup>th</sup>. you have related his symptoms I believe very justly — but his urine, this morning, was again made with great difficulty — I was again sent for — and unloaded more of the contents of the Gut, with as good success as before — viz. after the operation he made urine more freely — and was much relieved from pain. Your relation of the symptoms of Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>. is very unfair: the gangrene was in a spreading state — he had had no refreshing sleep — he had been easier indeed ever since the last Glyster, and made urine more freely; but all his other

but

complaints



complaints were as bad as they were the day before : neither did Mr. STEWARD scarify him as mentioned in your pamphlet : He open'd a few small blisters fill'd with *ichor*. Mr RALLING would not, I believe, have submitted to have been scarified, as I begged of both him and Mrs RALLING not to consent it should be done ; but if Mr. STEWARD propos'd it, to tell him I did not approve of it in Mr. RALLING's case ; and if this was not sufficient to send for me. Indeed he never was scarified, in my presence, nor out of it, unless you will call opening a Vesication or two with a lancet scarifying. This day you thought it necessary he should take the Bark—

and

and I begged of Mr. and Mrs RAL-  
LING to propose to you his taking  
larger doses of it, than you had or-  
der'd, joined with other *antiseptics* ;  
and that warmer applications should  
be immediately applied to the gan-  
gren'd parts--neither of which things  
you thought proper to comply with.

But I absolutely refused prescrib-  
ing for him, while you attended,  
unless you was present, and would  
choose to meet me. I was always  
told you did not think proper to  
consult with me —and that neither  
the intreaties of Mr and Mrs RAL-  
LING, nor the perswasive arguments  
of a friend, they got to beg that fa-  
vour of you, could induce you to  
meet me. In respect to the *Cum-*

*min*

*min Cataplasma* you mention, Mr STEWARD had got the ingredients for it at his own house — but did not think proper to make it up, and send it to his Brother, as he should have done — for which reason, on the Saturday morning, I order'd the *Theriaca Andromachi*, with some *Pulvis Camphoræ* to be in readiness against you and your friend should come to dress him ; that no time might be lost till the *Cataplasma e Cymino* could be made. The *Theriaca Andromachi* it seems you did not think proper to apply, on account of the opium in it — and I saw all the things, I had proposed in the morning, as absolutely necessary to be immediately applied to

the



the *gangrene* standing in the shop in the Evening of the same day, when I call'd to know how he did.

Sunday morning the 22<sup>d</sup>. I was call'd out of bed to him—and was told he had had a very bad night.

I found every thing growing worse : the mortification had spread to a large extent — it appeared to me now high time I should no longer trifle with the life of a man in so great danger, out of ceremony to either of you. I therefore immediately submitted to the earnest solicitations of the patient, his wife, and family, to take him under my own care — and resolved from that moment, to do so, if *you*, and your *wise friend*, should still persist in

your

your resolution not to meet me.

I that instant sent the patient's apprentice to Mr STEWARD's for the *Cataplasma e Cymino*. He was admitted to Mr STEWARD — and when the Lad ask'd him, in my name, for the *Cataplasma*, Mr STEWARD answer'd, — what does the *fool* want that for? The young man replied for my Master Sir, who is Mortified—and Doctor NORFORD, and my Master beg the favour of you to come immediately, as the Doctor will wait to see my Master dress'd. After I think two messages were sent Mr STEWARD came. \*  
Some conference pass'd between Mr STEWARD and me, about the propriety

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\* *Vide* P. 10th. of your Appeal.

priety of treating Mr RALLING--and I declared to him what I thought ought to have been done. He then *cringed* to me like a *spaniel*—hoped, he said, I would forget all that was past—and, for the future, he would always use me like a gentleman—and was then willing to assist me, in the case of his Brother RALLING, to the utmost of his power. He confessed indeed the *case* was *mistaken*—but laid all the fault at your door—and said that, in the course of Mr RALLING's illness, he had often told you some different method ought to be pursued. I answer'd that I supposed you had not taken the *Surgery part* under your direction;—but he said you were

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the



the director of every thing. All matters being amicably made up, as I thought, I wished then to see *you*, that we might all be friends, and jointly attend for the good of the poor patient. You soon appear'd, as I was told, for I had not the pleasure of seeing you, and as soon *silently retreated* when you saw me in the patients chamber.

Notwithstanding all I had said to Mr. STEWARD with respect to the *state* of the *gangrene*, he was positive the mortification was only *skin deep* — and till I had thrust my fingers thro' the rotten skin into the dead flesh he would not believe the muscles were affected — and to the truth of this assertion the *Nurse*,  
and

and Mr. *Ralling himself* are witnesses for me. The gangrene continued to spread, and I could not be assured it was stopp'd 'till Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. STEWARD did not meet me in the Sunday, as he had agreed to do, on account, as he says, of his health \*—so that, if I had not undertaken the Surgery part, Mr RALLING must inevitably have died for want of dressing; as Mr. KELLER was out of Town. Indeed, after this *sudden indisposition* of Mr. STEWARD, both Mr. and Mrs. RALLING begged of me to dress the wounds till Mr. RALLING should be out of danger: But notwithstanding this they both

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behaved

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\* *Vide* P. the 11<sup>th</sup>. of your Appeal.

behaved with great civility to Mr. STEWARD, whenever he thought proper to visit them. I apologized to Mr. STEWARD, in the handsomest manner I was able, for my dressing his brother, which I had begun, I told him, because he could not regularly attend; and as he knew his brother's life depended on being dress'd twice in a day, I hoped he would excuse it; and that he was not to look upon what I did then, as a specimen of the manner I intended to treat him for the future: As I did not in the least design to interfere with *him*, or any *one* else, in Surgery. But I tell him *now* I shall always be ready to give my advice and assistance, in any branch of Surgery, (when



a Surgeon is concerned,) if either the life of the patient, or his satisfaction of mind should require it of me. I more than once begg'd of Mr. STEWARD to assist me—but he did not choose to attend,—and soon after began to abuse me, behind my back, in the most *vulgar, wicked and scandalous* manner.

He endeavour'd to represent me as a person who had a design of Murder, viz. that I had tried to kill his Brother RALLING for five days—but as I have observed to you, that I had so little skill in physic, I could not do it for the blood of me. He declared he found out my wicked designs upon the 3<sup>d</sup>. day:  
and

and yet his *great goodness*, suffer'd me to go on *two days* longer ! One of the persons, to whom he told this fine story, ask'd him why he did not put a stop to my endeavours immediately ? His answer to this, I am inform'd, has not yet been quite satisfactory.

On Monday the 23<sup>d</sup>: I again unloaded the *rectum* of a vast quantity of *fæces*; some of which were very hard, and extremely *fætid*. Indeed the room was so disagreeable, that we were obliged, several times in a day, to sprinkle it with hot vinegar; and use other means to correct the most intolerable stench. You are sensible Sir, the fever was of a very malignant nature:

nature: And it continued very untoward 'till Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup>.— the pulse weak and undulating — the skin, at times, rather cold—clammy sweats; the tongue dark and foul—thirsty, tho' not to a great degree — no proper taste — urine crude, rather high and dark colour'd — sometimes with a cloud, sometimes without. The mortification now began to seperate — which had consumed a large portion of the *gluteus maximus*, on the left buttock — destroyed also some of the integuments on the right — extended some inches in breadth, and in length it reached from the lower part of the *os sacrum* (deep down close to the gut,) as far as the



the bottom of the *scrotum* — carried away a deal of the *perinæum*, and laid a great part of the *rectum* and *urethra* bare — so that, if the dressings were put into the wound the least too hard, they stopp'd the passage for the urine: at least a pound weight of the great muscle of the left buttock *slough'd* out. The parts were destroyed so deep towards the neck of the bladder, that while the *sloughs* were coming off, I daily expected to see the urine come thro' the *perinæum* — the consequences of which I need not tell you. The parts now began to come to their sense of feeling — the tension being off, the lower end of the *gut* was bare

several

several inches, and like a flaccid bag — it having been so long distended with *faeces*. Pains now also came on frequently in a day, like labour pains — lasted a minute or two, and then went clear off — a small quantity of stool being evacuated, at every pain, with much *flatus*.

On the 28<sup>th</sup>. and 29<sup>th</sup>. the pulse became fuller and stronger — the skin felt of a natural warmth — the tongue cleaner and moist — urine of a better colour, with a laudable sediment: the parts digested good matter; and, in short, every thing had as good an appearance as we could reasonably wish.

I ventured now to loosen what *faeces* still adhered to the *gut* — and,

G

in

in a few days, the bowel was quite freed of its extraordinary load. Another misfortune indeed seem'd to threaten us — for as soon as the hard caked excrement was seperated from the *gut*, we discover'd a hole in it, about three inches above the *anus*; from which, for many days, some part of the *faeces* was daily discharged — but thank God, the external opening in the buttock was so large, that the hole in the gut healed up very sound — and the parts are now almost compleatly cicatrized. A *sinus* on the right side of the gut, pass'd up more than the length of a common probe; which has likewise the appearance of healing up — there were many

*sinuses*



*finishes* of less note, which are perfectly well.

Thus Sir, I have faithfully related a general History of Mr RAL-  
LING's case — to have mention'd every minute particular, wou'd have been very tedious to a person of your *skill* and *erudition* — and I fear I have already trespass'd too much upon your good nature and patience, by the length of this letter.

If I have in some places, exprs'd my self in common language, where I might have made use of *technical terms*, more concise and agreeable to you, and other men of learning in the profession, I hope I shall be excused, when it consider'd that curiosity may lead some of the *public* in

*general* to read what I have said, in answer to your pamphlet — which many of them perused only because your name was prefix'd to it; and therefore I was willing to be as intelligible as I could on their account.

Upon Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. KELLER the Surgeon attended with me — and was always afterwards so kind to dress him, when I was absent—so that he is a good witness for the truth of what I have related, if your worthy friend should think proper to deny the facts I have mentioned. Your friend has made several mistakes more than those I have already mention'd—particularly Mrs RAILING assures me she did not tell him on the *Saturday night*,

nor

nor at any other time, that nothing had been done by my advice or direction — neither did I tell him, I had attended Mr RALLING, or *been consulted for five days* but I suppos'd *unknown to you*—nor that the *Unguent of poplar-buds* had been used : Mr. RALLING declares to me none ever was used or thought of. I indeed told Mr. STEWARD I had unloaded the gut—or, I imagined his patient would not have been alive, when we saw him on the Sunday morning : and now, I positively tell *you*, that *very operation* laid a foundation for his cure—and without which, he could not have survived many days. This disorder, of the excrement lodged in the *rectum*, is not to be look'd

upon



upon as a common constipation of that bowel — it is a very different disease — and does not very frequently happen — I may perhaps hereafter say something more satisfactory on the nature of this complaint, than I have time to do now — as this is the 3<sup>d</sup>. case of its kind, I have met with in my practice — and from the circumstances attending the former cases, I greatly suspect, this disease has been some times over look'd — and that the ground may have conceal'd a blunder of this kind: and you know Sir, there are no writs of error from the Grave to detect the skill of the prescriber. If your *learned friend* should not understand the *nature* of this disease, from the *hints* I have given

given, I am not obliged to tell him, where he may receive further instruction on this head; and I do not presume to suppose that *you, Sir,* are ignorant of it, after near *thirty years experience* : \* You only overlook'd it in the present case. HIPPOCRATES the great *Father of Physic*, was sometimes mistaken; and had *honor* enough afterwards to own his *error* for the good of posterity.

That part of your *Appeal*, in which you have spoke of the *intention* of *Nature*, with as much confidence, as if you had been admitted into her *cabinet-council*, I dare say is your friend's, — I wonder therefore you did not advise him  
better

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\* *Vide* P. the 4th. of your *Appeal*.

better — and direct him to speak more cautiously of her intentions, lest he should disgrace himself, and shew the world he is not so intimate with her as he pretends—you know Sir, she seldom admits any, but those of the *first rate Understandings*, into her secrets and designs — and then like a wise Princess discloses only part of her intentions — and leaves you to guess at the rest.

If you, as *prime Minister*, had been attentive to your *royal Mistress's hints*, with your usual sagacity, — had relied more upon your own knowledge, and less upon that of your *under officer* ; and when the people murmur'd at your proceedings, wou'd have submitted to have taken a person into your adminis-

tration



tration, who had studied the laws of the constitution, even in the inferior courts, and could have directed your assistant there; none of these troubles would have happen'd—and he would have scorn'd to have said any thing—or given the least hint, that the people shou'd have thought less highly of your judgment than it deserved—but well might they be dissatisfied, to see you rely so much on another's opinion, as to call in a *Spanish Legion* \* to the assistance of the sinking state,—when at the beginning of the *intestine commotions*, little else was wanting than to have clear'd the common *sewers*: which were so firmly block'd up by the Enemy,

H

— the

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\* *Vide* p. the 9th. of your Appeal, line 12th.

— the consequences of which, you are sensible, must soon have been fatal; and if they had not been open'd, at the very time they were, must have bred such a contagion, as would inevitably have destroy'd the CAPITAL — and ruined the whole constitution, by a raging plague. As to his, or your calling me the *SNAKE in the grass*, (for I don't know which of you was the introducer of that speech) it gives me no uneasiness — you wou'd have found me a very *harmless Serpent*, if you had not given the first blow -- I wou'd not even have darted out to have terrified either of you, if you would contentedly have pass'd me in peace, and not aimed a blow at my head -- and tho', in your passion,

fion, you struck me with a *reed*  
 instead of a *staff*, yet your intention  
 was the same, and I must remember  
 you for it—you might otherwise  
 have coax'd and stroak'd me as  
 your friend--and tho' it is not in my  
 nature to lick you, I would have  
 stood erect to have defended you a-  
 gainst any beast of the wood, that  
 should have dared to have attack'd  
 either of you. But I give you no-  
 tice for the future, when you see me  
 basking in the Sun, to take care of  
 my length, and not tread upon my  
 tail, otherwise you must not be sur-  
 prised if I turn about and bite you  
 to the quick. To be serious Sir, it  
 has given me much concern I have  
 been obliged to a dispute of this  
 kind, with a person I wish'd to live

in



in friendship with — which you are sensible, can't end to the advantage of either of us. We have both of us our friends ; who, I hope, have too much sense to alter the good opinion they may have conceived of either of us, because we are so weak to trouble them with our ridiculous quarrels — But I hope the impartial will consider, I was not the aggressor ; but involuntarily drawn into this disagreeable altercation.

It is high time I should conclude, and that you may not be offended, I choose not to subscribe my self your Brother Physician, but shall only say that I am Sir, your most

*Bury* humble Servant,

*Oct. 9th.*

W<sup>M</sup>. NORFORD

1764.

18 JA 53

F I N I S.

## P O S T S C R I P T,

Please to observe, at page the 45th. of my letter, where I have mention'd Mr KELLER, that I do not mean to insinuate no other Surgeon in BURY could have dress'd him : but Mr. RALLING had two reasons for preferring Mr. KELLER, to any other Surgeon — one that he was his intimate friend, and the other that he thought Mr. KELLER wou'd be more agreeable to his brother-in-law Mr. STEWARD — and he studied to do nothing which might offend him.

N. B. The Author's avocations were such he could not regularly attend the press, so that the reader is desired to excuse and correct the typographical errors — particularly in p. 8. l. 17. after Colleges, *r.* in either of our Universities. p. 12. l. 11. *for* any, *r.* an, p. 16. l. 16. *for* spoke, *r.* spoken. *ditto*, l. 17. *for* which, *r.* to which it. p. 45. l. 6. after Sunday, *r.* Evening. p. 46. l. 20. *for* when, *r.* where p. 48. l. 17. *for* most. *r.* almost. p. 53. l. 13. *for* exp's'd, *r.* express'd. *ditto*, l. 19. *for* when it, when it is. &c.

Please to observe, at page 11  
 4th. of my letter, where I have  
 mentioned Mr. Kearney, that I do not  
 mean to intimate no other surgeon  
 in Bury could have dissected him:  
 but Mr. Keating had two reasons  
 for preferring Mr. Kearney, to any o-  
 ther surgeon — one that he was his  
 intimate friend, and the other that  
 he thought Mr. Kearney would be  
 more agreeable to his brother-in-law  
 Mr. Steward, and he feared to  
 do nothing which might offend him.

At B. The Anatomical section were first  
 located not regularly, and the first dis-  
 section is confined to external vessels and  
 topographical errors — anatomical errors  
 A. 17. after College is in error of one letter  
 first, & 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17.  
 A note, & 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17.  
 to which is added, & 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17.  
 and to which is added, & 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. 17.  
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